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JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT
THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEALS
Satellite broadcast from U.S. took Iranians to the street - Hurriyet
Revolt rehearsal in Tehran - Aksam
Iranian students chant 'death to mullahs' - Sabah
Blood bath in Middle East - Hurriyet
 Hamas retaliates: 17 dead - Milliyet
Ali Bin-Hussein to settle in Baghdad - Turkiye
Armenian 'Genocide' at U.S. Senate - Turkiye
U.S. military uneasy about Rumsfeld's candidate for Land Forces - Vatan
Blix to Pentagon: Bastards! - Sabah
Athens stepping up tension with Ankara - Milliyet

OPINION MAKERS
Bloody vicious cycle in Middle East - Cumhuriyet
Violence breeds violence: 16 die in Jerusalem suicide attack - Radikal
Tough retaliation by Hamas - Yeni Safak
Road map in coma - Zaman
Children of revolution demand 'evolution' in Iran - Zaman
Who pushed the button in Iran? - Yeni Safak
Iranian students take to the streets - Cumhuriyet
U.S. killed over 3,000 civilians in Iraq - Yeni Safak
EU sides with Greece on Aegean dispute - Radikal
U.S. reluctant to see its troops tried at ICC - Cumhuriyet

FINANCIAL JOURNALS
TUSIAD to government: Keep on path, our support will continue - Dunya
PM Erdogan criticizes businessmen for exploiting state - Finansal Forum

BRIEFING

U.S. has urged Turkey to recognize Kurdistan: U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Iraq, Zalmay Khalilzad, asked Ankara and the Turkmen before the Iraqi war to officially recognize Iraqi Kurdistan. Furthermore, Khalilzad offered the Turkmen a role in the new Iraqi administration in exchange for written recognition of Iraqi Kurdistan. Ankara had first agreed to recognize Kurdistan within the framework of the new Iraqi constitution, but had to step back in the face of the Turkmen reaction, according to Turkish diplomatic sources. A U.S. diplomat in Iraq, David Pearce, has told the Turkmen that the U.S. regards the Iraqi Turkomen Front as an extension of Turkey, according to "Cumhuriyet." "The U.S. has not forgotten, and will not forgive the reluctance displayed by Turkey during the war with Iraq," Pearce said. Bomb attack on U.S. Consulate Adana: On Wednesday, a Turkish man tossed two grenades into the garden of the U.S. Consulate in Adana. One grenade detonated in the garden, but there were no injuries. The attacker, who was apprehended immediately after the incident, said his action was meant as a retaliation against recent Israeli attacks on Muslims in Palestine.

Ankara holds 'secret' meetings with Armenians: Following the meeting between the Turkish and Armenian foreign ministers in Madrid last month, the MFA contacted Armenian representatives in the U.S. to explore the possibility of some goodwill gestures, papers report. MFA officials in

Yerevan gave the message that Ankara would open the border with Armenia immediately if the Armenians were to remove all territorial claims from their constitution and drop all references to a genocide by Turks. The diplomats also urged Yerevan to exert influence on the Armenian diaspora to help block efforts to gain U.S. Congressional recognition of an Armenian genocide. Other MFA diplomats told Armenians in the U.S. that provocative moves by the diaspora could undermine mutual good will.

Greek note of protest to Turkey: Athens presented a note of protest to Turkey after increases in alleged harassment by Turkish military jets over the Aegean negatively influenced Turkish and Greek tourism. Greek Foreign Minister Papandreou complained to EU's Verheugen the other day about the increased harassment of Turkish military jets. A Turkish diplomat is quoted as saying that Ankara should block Greek efforts to secure EU support for the Greek position to avoid further confusion in Turkey's troubled relationship with the EU.

Greeks admit past support for PKK: In an Athens court case exploring the illegal entry of PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan to Greece in 1998, some Greek officials have admitted that the PKK had been regarded as a second army on Greece's side in the Turkish-Greek conflict. Former Public Order Minister Papatemelis reportedly said that Athens had supported the Kurds' cause of dividing Turkey, adding that the Kurdish state to be founded in Iraq would have triggered the disintegration of Turkey.

EDITORIAL OPINION:

- a) Middle East
- b) US-Turkey relations in post war Iraq

"The Middle East Vision"
Ahmet Tasgetiren argued in the Islamic-intellectual Yeni Safak (6/12): "US policy in the Middle East is the imposition of the US vision on others. That is the main reason for the current tension between Turkey and the US. Washington has been sending advice to Ankara urging Turkey to change its 'vision.' First Wolfowitz, and more recently Perle were giving the same advice: Turkey needs a new vision on the Middle East issue, and a 'diversion' of views would be a disaster." By referring to a 'diversion,' the US officials are implying that Turkey must look at the Middle East in the same way as the US. . This is an early indication of the US obsession to redesign the Middle East. . The US should realize that only Turkey can provide the right advice to the US on the region. Turkey should never stop suggesting to Washington that it look at the region from a different angle, free from any subjective assessments and aspirations of imperial hegemony."

"Turkey's condition to withdraw from northern Iraq"
Mehmet Ali Birand wrote in the mass appeal-sensational Posta (6/12): "Iraq will be the most sensitive subject to be dealt with in Turkish-American relations in the days ahead. Turkey has not yet formulated a definite policy on Iraq. Some bitterness and a certain degree of disappointment is being experienced. Turkey has felt a certain degree of uneasiness due to the uncertain American position regarding the presence of some 3,000 PKK militants in northern Iraq. The future of these militants who live in camps set up along the Iran and Iraq border has yet to be determined. . The US wants Turkey to withdraw its troops, and Turkey will not budge until the PKK threat is entirely eliminated. . There is another issue that the US considers 'most important' as part of its medium and long-term expectations from Turkey: How exactly will Turkey view northern Iraq -- that is, the Kurds -- and Iraq in general? The US wonders how Ankara will arrange its relations both with its own Kurds and the northern Iraqi Kurds. . Ankara is expected to provide the answers to such questions. Ankara, meanwhile, is expecting Washington to clarify its approach toward the PKK."

PEARSON